

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION OF JASPER COUNTY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 12, 2018

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Arzillo; Vice Chairperson Pamela M. Williams; Mr. Rodney Catterton; Ms. Carrie Fair; Mrs. Regenia Scott; Mr. John Kemp; Mr. Carl Tyler and the Director Ms. Jeanine Bostick.

ABSENT: Mrs. Denise Davidson.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Arzillo.

INVOCATION: Mrs. Scott.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA: Confirmed by Director.

Pledge Allegiance by all.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motioned by Vice Chairperson Williams and seconded by Mr. Kemp to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 8, 2018: Motioned by Mrs. Scott and seconded by Vice Chairperson Williams to approve the minutes from the last Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously

OLD BUSINESS: VOTE ON: HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS GUIDELINES (MR. KEMP): Mr. Kemp stated he has given the guidelines to the Board, but, he did not want to vote on them tonight. Mr. Kemp made a motion to approve the guidelines on handling of complaints. Motion seconded by Vice Chairperson Williams. Open for discussion: The question was asked if the guidelines can be changed at anytime, the respond was yes, the guideline was just a guideline. Further discussion and voting at the next meeting.

VOTE ON: TAPING OF BOARD MEETINGS (MRS. SCOTT): Chairman Arzillo asked the Director to give a report of the County Attorney opinion on this matter. The Director informed the Board, Mr. Tedder, County Attorney stated in his email this matter would be brought up in the budget workshop with County Council being they requested and approved funding for the video recording of our meetings. Mrs. Scott commented the Board is appointed by the Governor and stipend is paid through the State and we should always follow the recommendations of the State. Vice Chairperson Williams commented if Council doesn't approve to stop the videotaping of our meetings are we not going to follow the States recommendation we need to ask Council not to fund videotaping of our meetings.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: PRIMARY WORKSHOP: The Director reminded the Board of the upcoming Primary Workshop scheduled for April 26, 2018 at 9:30am to 4:30pm in Columbia, SC. The General Election Workshop will be September 17, 2018.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: DISCUSSION: QUOTE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL LAPTOPS (EVRL): The Director presented to the Board a quote from Mr. Earl Bostick to purchase seven (7) new laptops to be used at the voting precincts on Election Day. York County donated seven (7) used laptops back in 2016, however they are slower and one laptop from York won't download the database. The State Election Commission purchased ten (10) new laptops for Jasper back in 2016 and those laptops are operating with no problems. The Director stated she felt it was time to invest in new laptops to avoid problems with the used laptops. The used laptops could be kept and used for back up.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: DISCUSSION: QUOTE TO PURCHASE NEW ACCESSORIES FOR THE NEW UNITY 4.0 SOFTWARE: The Director presented to the Board a price quote from Printelect to purchase new flash cards; new PCMIA cards and new PEBs. With the current new Unity 4.0 the original flash cards 128MB purchased in 2004 are no longer supportive with the new Unity 4.0 software. The 128MB Flash Cards tends to freeze and unable to retrieve information for audit reporting. The State recommends replacing those old flash cards with the 256MB flash cards or larger. We currently have **(48) 128MB** flash cards; **(19) 256MB** flash cards and **(5) 512MB** flash cards. The Director also stated we have had our current PCMIA cards which are used to read our paper ballots (Absentee; Emergency; Failsafe and Provisional) since 2004 and its time to consider replacing those cards as well. The Director reported several of our PEBs are no longer functioning, the PEBs won't accept the EQC Qualification Codes, we have sent several to be service unfortunately they are not repairable. The Director is recommending ordering new flash cards; PCMIA card and new PEBs. The Director issued a copy of the current budget and balance, highlighted the two areas the funds could be pulled from and doing so. There would be enough funds left in those budget lines to conduct the May and June primaries. The Board discussed and approved both quotes.

Total registered voters: 19,007 as of April 1, 2018.

The Director issued to the Board a ***DRAFT*** copy of the Board Members Precinct Checklist. The checklist would be used by the Board when visiting the various precincts on Election Day. Vice Chairperson Williams suggested possibly removing the signature from the form. Mr. Kemp motioned to approve the Board Member's Precinct Checklist for discussion and voting at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fair. Motion carried unanimously.

The Director will be testing the voting machines for Absentee on Friday at 10am and officially opening the Absentee precinct on Monday, April 16, 2018.

The Director informed the Board no additional repairs or refurbishing has been done to the Voter Registration Office. Mr. Terry stated he is very shorted handed and would do his best to get to our office when he can.

The Director informed the Board that her and Mr. Kemp visited the Coosawhatchie, Gillisonville and Sun City Precincts. It was decided Coosawhatchie and the Robertsville precincts would use a different door for entering and exiting the precincts. Sun City precinct for the May and July elections we will set up in their lobby area of the lake house, the original area is reserved for another function on those election dates.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT'D.: The Director informed the Board St. Anthony voting precinct is asking for a custodian fee. I informed the contact to submit a invoice after each election.

The Director informed the Baord of the EVRL training scheduled for April 27, 2018 at 6pm at the Senator Pinckney Government Building in the Council Chambers.

Ms. Fair mentioned the emails she received from bogus sites. The Director informed the Board do not click on any email you are unsure of what or who it is.

The Director reminded the Board to do their security survey SANS.

The Director reminded the Board to review the email she sent them on Canvass Hearing and Certification Guidelines and Board Members Election Day Guidelines drafted by Mr. Kemp.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None.

BOARD ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Mr. Kemp motioned to approve the Canvass and Certification Guidelines for discussion and voting at the next meeting. Motion seconded by Mrs. Scott. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kemp motioned the ABS precinct gets crowded and space isn't feasible for Observers. Mr. Kemp stated no one should know the identity of an absentee voter until 9am the day before Election Day. No one should see or hear the transaction at the desk. Therefore, Mr. Kemp offered a motion suggesting that observers view the absentee voting process from the window outside of the office. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Scott to be discussed and voted on at next meeting. Vice Chairperson Williams stated the next meeting would be too late for discussion the in house absentee precinct would be opening on Monday, April 16, 2018. The Director read the Electionnet statement posted by Chris Whitmire of the SEC on September 22, 2014. ***Q. Can candidates/parties assign poll watchers to the absentee precinct? A. No. Poll watchers are for Election Day only (7-13-860). Poll watchers can be assigned to the voter registration office, but only on Election Day for the opening of the absentee envelopes (7-15-420). While the absentee precinct and the county voter registration office should be as open, transparent, and publicly accessible as possible, the level of oversight allowed a watcher in the polling place cannot be afforded to the public at the absentee precinct. S.C. Code Section 7-15-330 prohibits release of the names of absentee voters prior to 9:00 a.m. on Election Day. By allowing a watcher to see the voter's Photo ID and the absentee application, the county office would be making known the identity of absentee voters. While any visitor to the office might recognize another visitor to the office, see the person go to the in-office absentee voting machines, and know they've voted absentee; that's very different than providing this information to a "watcher" or allowing the documentation to be seen for every voter. In addition, watchers aren't necessary in absentee because the ballot can be challenged up until the envelopes are separated on Election Day. With that said, it's acceptable to allow observers in the voter registration office during absentee, but those observers can't be allowed to be close enough to see and hear the transaction at the desk. Due to the size and layout of many offices, even observers may not feasible.*** After much discussion the majority of the Board decided there would be no Observers inside the office of the Absentee precinct.

TOPIC(S) OF DISCUSSION FOR NEXT MEETING:

- (Mr. Kemp) Handling of Complaints: Discussion and voting
- (Mr. Kemp) Canvass and Certification Guidelines: Discussion and voting
- (Jeanine) Board Members Precinct Checklist: Discussion and voting
- (Ms. Fair) Ballot By Mail: Discussion and voting
- (Ms. Fair) Ad for Voter Registration Drive: Discussion and voting

Mr. Kemp mentioned on June 5, 2018 at 10am the Hardeeville TV station would like to interview the Board regarding the upcoming City of Hardeeville Election. Asking for the Director and as many Board Members as possible to attend. Director will request Mr. Juan for questions prior to the interview.

Vice Chairperson Williams suggested having a after election town hall meeting with the poll workers to get their feedback on Election Day issues or concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Murphy asked did the poll workers pay increase. The Director commented yes, the State increase the pay for Election Day from \$60 Election Day to \$75 Election Day. The pay is \$60 for training and \$75 for Election Day. Mr. Murphy also commented he concurred with the Board's decision to not allow Observers inside the office of the absentee precinct.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: **Chairperson:** Vice Chairperson Williams nominated Mr. Kemp and Mr. Catterton nominated Mr. Arzillo. No further nominations: Mr. Kemp 1 vote; Mr. Arzillo 6 votes. Mr. Arzillo will remain Chairman.

Vice Chairperson: Ms. Fair nominated Mrs. Williams; Mr. Catterton nominated Mr. Kemp. No further nominations. Mrs. Williams 4 votes and Mr. Kemp 3 votes. Mrs. Williams will remain Vice Chairperson.

Chaplin: Mrs. Williams nominated Mrs. Scott; Ms. Fair nominated Mr. Tyler, Mr. Tyler declined; Mrs. Williams nominated Ms. Fair, Ms. Fair declined. No further nominations. Mrs. Scott will be Chaplin.

Secretary: Mrs. Scott nominated Mr. Kemp, Mr. Kemp declined; Mrs. Williams nominated Ms. Fair, Ms. Fair declined. No further nominations. The Board discussed and agreed to have Rosemary as Secretary.

Mr. Catterton informed the Board he would not be at the next Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Motioned by Vice Chairperson Williams to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Scott. Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Sincerely by submitted: Jeanine M. Bostick, Director

cc: File; Board Members; Mr. Andy Fulghum, County Administrator; Judy Frank, Clerk of Council and Jasper County Delegation.